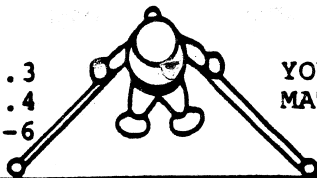


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MATWATCH

213 PINE HILLS AVE. AUBURN, AL. 36830 205/826-7522

VOL. 1, NO. 46

Grand Ole Victory: Flair Tops

Steamboat For Sixth NWA Reign

NASHVILLE - Ric Flair upended Ricky Steamboat with a reverse cradle in 31:33 to win the NWA world heavyweight championship for a sixth time before an estimated 5,200 at the Nashville Auditorium but was pearlharbored by former NWA champion Terry Funk in a surprise attack which will lead to a Flair-Funk series.

In a match with fifteen two-counts, the turning point of the Steamboat-Flair conflict came at 27:38 when Steamboat was attempting his dragonfly move from the top rope, lost his balance and hurt his knee. Flair rallied with a high suplex at 29:40 and then began to pull and stretch on Ricky's knee before going for his patented figure 4 leglock at 29:46. He scored a 2 5/6 count at 29:54 but Ricky made it to the ropes for a break at 30:30.

Steamboat rallied for a miraculous enziguiri at 30:49 and as he was going for a finish to perhaps wind up Flair's chances at the NWA belt, Flair reversed for his sixth title reign in 31:33.

Funk, at ringside as a judge with former NWA champs Pat O' Connor and Lou Thesz, entered the ring after an emotional handshake between Steamboat and Flair in which the former champion raised the new champ's hand.

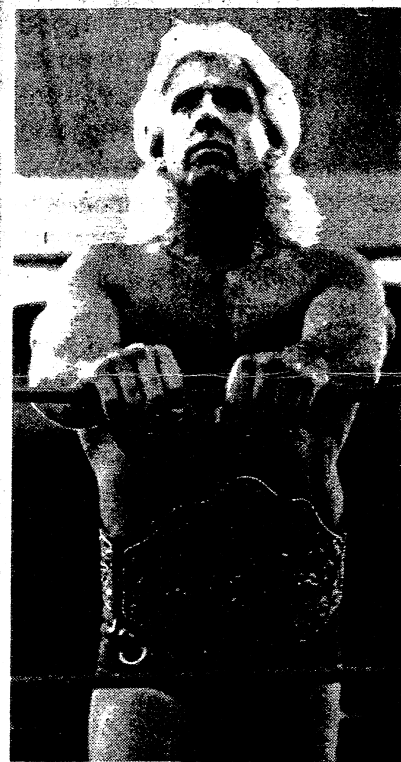
As NWA announcer Jim Ross entered the ring to interview Flair, Ric called Steamboat "the greatest champion he had ever faced," which drew a big roar. Funk then entered to "be the first to congratulate you and the first to challenge you." Ric Flair countered that Funk had been spending a lot of time in Hollywood, doing movies with Sylvester Stallone and Flair had a series of top ten challengers to go through first.

After an increasingly tense verbal exchange, Funk appeared to walk away and then knocked Flair's lights out with a major clothesline. He then began a barrage which lasted more than four minutes and will become a classic collectors' item for video tape savers in the years to come. Funk piledrove Flair into a ringside table, then proceeded to dump the table onto Flair's back and clobbered the new champ with a chair. Funk then raced to grab Ross and implore him he was not too old to be a contender. As he dashed down the aisle, he yelled at Lance Russell and Joe Pedicino and proceeded to pound Pedicino on the neck twice. The TV and 900 telephone audience were told Flair had to be taken for medical attention.

The long-awaited Flair babyface turn has been accomplished and ringsiders, particularly critical hardcores, showered praise on the angle and the followup in the next two weeks on the TBS and syndicated shows will continue to build the revised Flair persona as a babyface champion.

Flair was assisted from ringside by referees Byron Scott and Tommy Young amid powerful showboating by Funk. Coverage of the MUSIC CITY SHOWDOWN card is on Page 2 with some NASHVILLE NOTES on Page 5. The pay-per-view coverage will be reviewed next week as MATWATCH reviews WRESTLE WAR '89 from the live show perspective, our first inside coverage at a pay-cable show.

Championship match rating: PINFALL! It and the aftermath will be permanent memories.



GREAT MUTA VS. DOUG GILBERT: Junkyard Dog, who failed to show at Saturday's mall show did the same Sunday and is O-U-T! So Eddie's brother subbed. Muta had an early surge but Gilbert countered with two clotheslines in the first minute. Muta rallied with a nerve hold at 2:00. Eddie came to ringside for encouragement but Muta scored with his reverse flip and the pin at 3:03. **DRAW-PLUS.**

RANGER ROSS VS. BUTCH REED: After early flurry, Reed scores with neckbreaker at 2:30 at the moment Teddy Long appears at ringside ---then restholds start. Ranger rallies for series of chops and dropkicks at 5:48 and takes it outside but Reed scores with a kick, then follows with a suplex and powerblock from the top rope for the pin at 6:38. **RESTHOLD.**

BULLROPE MATCH/DICK MURDOCH VS. BOB ORTON JR.: A complete brawl with lots of pounding before Murdoch begins using his boot at 3:12. He scores a near-fall at 3:30. Orton then rallies with the rope but eventually missed an elbow off the top...Murdoch tied his legs up with the rope and packaged him for the pin at 5:00. But Gary Hart runs in and Orton uses the cowbell on Dick and hangs him over the rope. Crowd didn't really pop for the hanging as you might think. **RESTHOLD-PLUS.**

SAMOAN SWAT TEAM VS. DYNAMIC DUDES: The skateboarding Shane Douglas & Johnny Ace make their PPV debut. They get a good pop with lots of early Paul E. SUX from the crowd. Dudes get good early offense and Shane scores quick dropkick before Samu gets a chop. Dudes do lots of quick tags before Fatu gets a nasty karate kick. Samu gets near-fall with side suplex on Ace at 5:10...and with a 360 powerslam at 5:45. Samu goes for Boston crab at 8:00. Ace scapes and tags Shane. Shane scores several dropkicks before being clotheslined. As SST prepare coup de grace, Shane kicks out of Samoan Splash. As SST prepare powerslam finish, Ace dropkicks Samu and Douglas falls on top as Tommy Young is distracted and in 9:38, Dudes score one of big upsets of day. **DRAW-PLUS.**

U.S. HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE/ MICHAEL HAYES VS. LEX LUGER (Champion): Big pop for both. Hayes goes for cross body block at 1:30. Then he gets Russian leg sweep at 2:10 but Luger kicks out. Lex gets big flurry at 3:30 and Michael retreats outside. Hayes gets big clothesline at 4:50 but Luger escapes DDT try. Lex then gets series of arm twists into armbar...then scores midair backbreaker at 7:42. Michael

scores with series of chops and clothesline, which Lex doesn't sell. Lex gets hot flurry and tries for power clothesline, which Hayes ducks, sending Lex taking nasty tumble over top rope. Hayes gets two near-falls from suplex at 11:15. On outside, Hiro Matsude rails his ex-protege at 12:00. Lex slides out of a bulldog try at 14:18 and begins to pound. Lex then gives two straight military presses but after third, he goes for torture rack and Hayes reverses into DDT. Both are down and then revive to simultaneously crash into each other. As they do, Terry Gordy comes to ringside and pushes Hayes onto Luger as ref Nick Patrick had taken a tumble. Nick revives and counts the fatal fall and Hayes has his first major singles belts in 16:30. **POWERSLAM.**

NWA TV TITLE/ STING VS. IRON SHEIK: For everybody wanting to see the Sheik get squashed, this was it. After Sheik attacked Sting with the flag, he had a 40-second flurry, which Sting rallied from, culminating with the Stinger splash at 1:50 and one of the first concessions in ages by Sheik with the Scorpion at 2:09. **RESTHOLD.**

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM TITLE/ ROAD WARRIORS VS STEVE WILLIAMS & MIKE ROTUNDA (Champions): With Nikita Koloff as guest referee,, this was a total brawl heated when Animal powerslammed Rotunda, who was coming off the top rope with a clothesline attempt. Hawk clotheslined Doc through the ropes at 3:20 but missed a second move and took a nasty bump. In the midst of a melee, Doc is set up for the fatal Warrior clothesline and as Nikita is about to count 3, he is attacked by Danny Spivey. The Warriors get the DQ win in 6:15 and NWA executive v.p. Jim Herd strips the Varsity Club of their belts. Expect a tourney to settle new champs at the June 14 CLASH VII. **POWERSLAM.**

U.S. TAG TEAM TITLE/ EDDIE GILBERT & RICK STEINER D. KEVIN SULLIVAN & DANNY SPIVEY. What the TV audience did not know is Steiner entered with a torn bicep muscle, suffered in Montgomery Friday night. The Varsity Club immediately went to work, with Spivey slamming Steiner's shoulder into the ringpost three times. Gilbert virtually wrestled in a handicap situation and as Eddie is about to lose the fall----with ref Young's back turned---Steiner miraculously clotheslines Sullivan and Gilbert scores the pin at 7:42. Spivey & Sullivan then chair Steiner and Kevin attacks Missy Hyatt but Eddie chases him off finally with a chair. **DRAW---**the crowd heat was down until the very end because of the cool off after the emotion over the Funk attack on Flair and the Warriors-Varsity brawl.

Steve's Sidelights By Steve Beverly

MUSICAL VOICES

The older I get, the more I'm uncomfortable with change---even though I know it's necessary and is often for the better. If a restaurant is giving me good service, I don't like major changes in the menu. If a grocery store lays its aisles in a specific fashion, I don't cotton to having to ask every shelf stocker where the potato chips are after remodeling.

The NWA is about to undergo yet another change in its announcing rosters. I'll grant you, there are some positives to it but allow me to cast a constructive skepticism about altering the rotation only two months after viewers began to get adjusted to a new lineup.

Beginning this weekend, Jim Ross assumes a role he's virtually had for four weeks now as solo host of TBS' WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING but also takes over as lone emcee of WORLD WIDE WRESTLING, which he just left in February. Lance Russell will move to NWA PRO, where he teams with Bob Caudle, and the effervescent Lance then joins Paul E. Dangerously on the TBS and syndicated NWA MAIN EVENT.

This marks a change of heart on the part of NWA chieftain Jim Herd, who had made the popular Ross an exclusive TBS property. The idea was to give the syndicated shows a different tone and flavor with alternate hosts. But Herd quickly points out TBS has no dissatisfaction with its announce team.

"This gives our syndicated affiliates the possibility of all three of our announcers," says Herd. "It can be a sensitive situation dealing with local stations. With Ross only on TBS, the feeling in some quarters was that we may be putting all of our hot angles on TBS and not in syndication. That's not the case but we're trying to be sensitive to the desires of our stations in an effort to improve our lineup."

I'll concur it's a plus for people with TBS only and no NWA syndication to see the talents of Russell on cable and I'm sure tensions will run like a tick trying to suck blood from a dog with Lance and Paul E.

So what's the rub? I'm bothered because this is reminds me of a local TV station in such a scramble to find the right combination that it changes anchor people every few months. After a while, viewers become so disconcerted with adjustments after getting comfortable with a lineup that they often tune away. I saw that when I was in TV news on more than one occasion. In fact, it happened at the station at which I was once an anchor.

Only four weeks ago, we suggested the NWA leave the emcee lineup alone and let the viewers drink it in. In making this latest change, in my view, a message of continued instability is being sent to viewers. Since December alone, WCW has seen the old 3-man lineup change to Tony Schiavone & Ross to Ross & Magnum T.A. to Ross & Michael Hayes and, finally, to Ross alone.

Some changes, prompted by Schiavone's defection to the NWF, were unavoidable. But it's time to let the train have a smooth track for a while.

You may note that no heel color commentators are listed on that lineup. Guests will join Ross at the mike periodically but the office opinion is that Michael Hayes (WCW) and Kevin Sullivan (NWA PRO), while doing competent jobs, were hurting their heel ring images. Why? The executives' consensus is that someone such as Jesse Ventura can be effective in the heel role because he doesn't actively wrestle. Ventura would get one of the biggest babyface reactions in America today, were he still competing. Conversely, Hayes, in particular, was seen becoming highly popular with his villainous humor and phrasemaking ability---which, it's felt, damages his heel heat when he faces a Lex Luger.

I buy that as valid to a point. But problematic for me is that Michael was turned heel in order to provide that contrast to Ross, which he did so well in the old UWF. I'll admit to breaking up at his "Never had it...never will," line to Luger. But the two times I've seen Hayes since his turn, he drew enormous heat from the fans and---while strictly my view---I believe the change is being made too soon.

As for the Friday night NWA magazine show, premiering June 23, the talent lineup remains up in the air. And as of mid-June, in all syndicated markets where the NWA only has one show, that show will be WORLD WIDE.

But here is a plea to let the lineups breathe and give the viewer a chance to become familiar before uprooting their habits again. TBS fans will have enough difficulty finding WCW this summer with its floating time period, which I detest. Let's not see a repeat of what NBC did with THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E. and STAR TREK in the mid-60s, moving both shows to new time periods every season. Eventually, the viewers wearied of the bouncing slots and turned their dials.

YOU SAID IT!

I am continuing to be impressed by MATWATCH. I think it's one of the best-written newsletters around. Having worked in the communications field in high school and some in college, I'm really impressed. The article with the TV listings a few weeks back was hilarious.

STEVE STOGDALE
STAUNTON VA

Too bad about Barry Windham. He's always been one of my favorites and it looks like an ego hangup is causing him problems. I hope he can get things corrected and works it out with the NWA.

(Bill) Dundee's got things going in the right direction in the CWF and it's gaining strength again. The CWF has some good heels but it needs some more top babyfaces. Kerry Von Erich & Jeff Jarrett can't help that much, coming in only for spot shows.

DAVID WILLIAMSON
CLEVELAND TN

I don't think MATWATCH is underrated any longer. Smart wrestling people really enjoy it.

BILL MOFFITT JR.
ALTA LOMA CA

COMINGS & GOINGS

SCHEDULES: Okay, gang, here are the schedules as we have them for PWTW on FNN and WCW on TBS for the rest of May. PWTW is scheduled every Saturday at 10:30 p.m. (EDT) the rest of the month. For WCW, it goes like this: this Saturday, 9:45 p.m. (EDT) or immediately after the Braves; May 20, 9:50 or after Braves; May 27, 7:05 p.m. All WCW shows will be one hour during the month.

YOUR COMMENTS: This may do little good because of TBS' firm commitment to U.S. OLYMPIC GOLD but if you'd like to see WCW moved back to 6:05 EDT or get a better break in scheduling during baseball season, send your letters to: JEFF CARR, WTBS, 1050 TECHWOOD DR., ATLANTA GA 30318-5264.

LOCAL YOKELS: A new station in Las Vegas (KFBI) has begun airing a four-hour block of shows, top-lined by CWA. Boni Blackstone is negotiating with WAWA in Rome GA to become her new headquarters for Atlanta-area SUPERSTARS OF WRESTLING in the likelihood of WVEU's new owners, Home Shopping Network, dropping her seven-hour block. KDNL in St. Louis is down to three shows a week, WORLD WIDE on Saturday nights and NWA PRO and WWF SUPERSTARS Sunday morning. For viewers in Northwest Arkansas, where I was last week, the pickings are down to NWA PRO and SUPERSTARS, both late Saturday nights out of Pittsburg, Kansas.

MORE SIGNINGS: Ricky Santana is definitely committing to the NWA. Mixed signals on Tom Zenk. One source says he's been offered a nice financial figure and will start at the June 14 CLASH VII. But a second source says Zenk doesn't want to give up his Japan work to come. Wahoo McDaniell is being pitched a slot as an NWA road agent. Speaking of talent scouting....isn't Brad Armstrong lurking around in the indies now? He's been out of the NWA eight months and could be fresh. And has anybody given Joe & Dean Malenko a call?

OWEN WATCH: A followup to the comment Owen Hart made to MATWATCHER Bruce Grummett that he "wants to get out of the WWF real bad." Owen allegedly was reprimanded from an official who overheard the remark. We're told the matter of Owen's offer from the NWA is strictly in his hands now. A couple of MATWATCHERS have suggested the NWA ought to go in and help Stu Hart if Vince McMahon attempts to wreck his promotion over Owen's status. I like the idea.

LITTLE MACHO: The TORONTO STAR is reporting what many of us have been privately told for weeks, that Elizabeth Poffo is expecting a little Macho.

MAN OF STEEL: Steelman (Fred Ottman) has reportedly turned down an offer from Titan, seeing that Tiny Lister as Zeus is the new monster foe for Hulk Hogan. So the NWA is hot on his trail.

DUSTY'S TRAIL: The PWF Florida show is now airing on a community cable channel in Philadelphia. Al Perez has dropped the Florida belt to Steve Keirn but received a rematch Saturday at HOMECOMING II. Perez is reportedly headed for World Class but late word is he's been negotiating to become the WEF tag partner of Tito Santana. Stay tuned....

SUNSHINE WINDHAMS: Despite denials in some quarters, both Barry and Kendall Windham either already have or will shortly start with the PWF, according to informed sources. It has to be a monster pay cut because PWF is averaging only about 3-4 shows a week, drawing houses of 200-500.

DO YOU BELIEVE MORT?: The swastika juicing of Morton Downey Jr. has filled up the papers and talk shows in the last week but I'll go on record right now hoping no wrestling organization attempts an in-ring parody of this.

PIPER-NERD: The Roddy Piper-Nord the Barbarian confrontation for Don Owen is the crescendo of an incredible three months in Portland. If we were voting today, I'd give it the nod as BEST TV SHOW with the much-improved WCW second. But let's make our total judgment at the end of the year.

KUNKEL'S QUOTES: Our cartoonist, Bill Kunkel, has a new issue of his own ANGLE paper coming out soon (see SHOPPERS' NETWORK) and Bill also (along with Dr. K Arnie Katz) has a review of two wrestling video games in the current month's VIDEO GAMES AND COMPUTER ENTERTAINMENT mag. Bill & Arnie look at MAT MOGUL, which puts you in the role of promoter, and SGT. SLAUGHTER'S MAT WARS. I think both are in formats for Apple, IBM and Commodore-64.

THE NEXT PPV: A couple of weeks ago, we reported on plans for the July 24 NWA pay-per-view. That show will return to Baltimore under the title THE GREAT AMERICAN BASH but that is the only BASH-titled card scheduled, as opposed to the summer-long tour of last year.

GOODHEART'S GOODIES: Joel Goodheart's WRESTLING RADIO in Philly this weekend will feature a phone call from Jerry Lawler, who is scheduled to defend his "unified" world title vs. Boy Gone Bad, the WWA "world" champion May 19 in Woodbury NJ. Just "happening" to be on Joel's show will also be Jim Cornette, Jammie ("Squared Circle") Ward and a few others to give Lawler the raspberries.

CWA CHATTER: Ron Webb, the latest color commentator to be auditioned with Dave Brown, is the better of those tried. He's been featured on some house show play-by-play and has inflections which sound a bit like Lance Russell.

THE VIDEO SCENE: On the other hand, closer attention needs to be paid to the Memphis music videos. Recent tapes at several stations featured music tracks which were horribly muffled.

ATTENTION: The D.I. (Bob Carter) is now managing the M.O.D. Squad in Nelson Royal's ACW group. D.I. subbed for Basher during a recent absence in defending the ACW tag belts. Royal is taking the tack of having new stars develop from the perennial TBS jobber crew. Yet, David Isley seems to keep losing.

FINAL NOTE: Yes, we will be doing a special one-year anniversary issue on July 3, which will be a double issue to allow us to take a holiday week off. So our new rates will not kick in until the July 17 issue (see SHOPPERS NETWORK).

RATINGS RAP: SYNDICATION

(Week Ending Apr. 16)	Rating	Stations	U.S. Pct.
WEF	9.3	250	97%
NWA	6.7	144	90%

(ANALYSIS: This one's rather hard to explain. The WEF was down a full point and the NWA up one. I think some cooling off for Titan was expected after the 10.3 Apr. 8-9 from post-WM5 curiosity. But this was the first weekend booking committee-produced shows had kicked in, so the average viewer would have not known anything special was coming in the NWA. We'll track the numbers from this report through the last weekend in May and see if any trends develop.)

RATINGS RAP: CABLE

(Week Ending May 1)	Rtg	Shr	Total Homes
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 5/1)	3.0	4.5	1.4 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 4/30)	2.4	7.2	1.12 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 4/30)	2.2	5.1	1.07 million
NWA WORLD CHAMP. (TBS 4/29)	2.2	4.8	1.07 million
NWA MAIN EVENT A.M. (TBS 4/29)	0.6	5.1	291,000

(ANALYSIS: Everything has taken a spring dip. PTW even dipped back under a 5-share for the first time in four weeks. WCW perked back up to a 2.2 and close to the 5-share considered adequate for prime time but still a half-point below this time last year. OLYMPIC GOLD fed a 1.4/3.3 lead-in, better than usual. ALL-AMERICAN also fell victim to a much lower level of homes watching at the noon hour in the East.)

The weekend was kicked off in high spirits in Music City with the NWA mall show from 7-9 Saturday at Hickory Hollow Mall and the Titan show at the city auditorium. The mall event drew more than 5,000 fans---which Hickory Hollow officials said was the biggest for any event in the building's history. The WEF drew 7,900 Saturday night on what was termed, at best, a "fair" show....JYD also no-showed at the mall. Speculation is he did not want to do a job for Muta.... Backstage Sunday, reports were that Ted Turner is personally about to make a major announcement involving the NWA on May 21. One rumor, which I discount, is that he is signing Randy Savage but other speculation is that he will announce that the Russians who have been touring with Antonio Inoki in Japan will make a tour here. That may promote international goodwill but, considering how much trouble Inoki has had getting those guys to do jobs, I don't know how good it would be for the NWA....Steve Williams looked great backstage. He's been dieting in preparation for his Japan swing....Many fans didn't know who Gordy was because of his hat and hair being pulled back. The heat for Lex is that he had his foot on the ropes during the pin and in a match soon to air, he'll say "I don't need an instant replay to tell me my foot was on the ropes.".... Funk's post-match interview was so good, people were actually applauding when it finished. I want you to see it for yourself but I'll share with you the one line: "Ric Flair, you look like Barbara Bush with anorexia."....Among the folks we met for the first time were Lou Thesz (one of my just-like-a-kid thrills), Ric & Beth Flair, the Steamboats, my telephone friend Bill Apter, and about a dozen of the most fun hardcore fan/newsletter subscribers I've had a chance to associate with. Guys, I hope we can do it again soon....Titan brought in several guys from Indianapolis Saturday night for doubleshots late. Their show dragged deliberately until 11:30 in an attempt to screw the NWA from getting set up....The show cleared 12 million homes Sunday, according to Turner Home Entertainment's Steve Chamberlain....In the Hyatt lobby, Funk said his match in Miami vs. Dusty Saturday night was a tremendous one (they brawled under the ring, too) but only 300 people saw it and speculation is Dusty won't last much longer. Some talk is he's seeking to book for Verne Gagne but that's far from official....Foghorn Leghorn himself, Terry Taylor, showed up in the Hyatt lounge Saturday night to say hello, as did Michael Hayes. Jim Ross held court for a while and a bone-tired Pedicino appeared about 1 a.m....Steamboat told me after the show, "I think things are only going to get better in this company...and it's nice to be where I'm wanted."....I don't know how the folks in New York felt about it but the Oak Ridge Boys put on a fun 20 minutes live but one fan held up a sign, "GO BACK TO OAK RIDGE....WE WANT WRESTLING!"....If you wanted to be nit-picky, you could say Steamboat should have made a save on Flair when Funk was attacking or that Ric should have been stretchered but it's been a long time since I've seen someone take control of a situation in the manner Funk did....The aftermath made it very difficult for the two tag title matches to get much heat but the Warriors-Varsities did get an okay pop. The finale, however, did not really get a ring from the crowd until Steiner's desperation clothesline to set up the win....Steiner was being examined Monday and the necessary arm surgery will probably put him out 3-4 weeks....More newcomers to the NWA: Scott Hall from Florida and Makhan Singh from Stampede. Chris Benoit has made inquiry about coming in....A few final items: disregard a COMINGS & GOINGS note on the Bash. The go-ahead has been given for a full BASH tour from late June to early August. In addition to Flair-Funk, expect a series between Steve Williams & Terry Gordy....CLASH VII may have to move from CENTER STAGE because of a problem of building availability that night. If not, expect it at the Omni or in Fayetteville NC. Last off, thanks to Bob Caudle and Lance Russell for being two of the nicest guys around. FSB.

TV TEMPO

(Week of May 1-7)

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See PILEDRIVER - Excellent
POWERSLAM - Good DRAW - Average RESTHOLD - Fair BOMB
- Poor PLUS - Midscale rating.

Embry vs. Skandor Akbar ends in no contest when
Devastation attacks Embry, who does stretcher job.
DRAW.

(PMTW) - WEF, Rick Rude d. Hercules Hernandez; ACW, ACW
TITLE: Doug Somers d. Don Kernodle; CWA, Detroit
Demolition d. Jed Grundy; NWA, Sting d. Lee Scott; SCW,
Dino Minnelli/Steve Lawler d. Bob Bennett/Steve Reeves;
CMF, Wendell Cooley DQ over Bill Dundee; Stampede,
Bruce Hart/Biff Wellington/Chris Benoit d. Cuban
Choirboys/Johnny Smith. MARS WRESTLER OF WEEK:
Somers. DRAW.

(SCW) - Nightmare II (Billy Starr) draw vs. Mr.
Atlanta; Joel Deaton d. Stacy Stone; Ga. Power d. Lee
Scott/Eddie Sweat; Ron Starr d. Steve Prichard, who
juices severely. HOT SEAT: Gordon Clements asks Tommy
Rich why he turned heel and Jerry Blackwell challenges
Tommy to rethink his ways. RESTHOLD.

(MCCW) - Botswana Beast/Blue Angel d. Tony Falk/Sweet
Georgia Brown; REPLAY: Brickhouse Brown joins
Devastation, Inc.; Simpsons d. Beauty & the Beast; Eric

(ACW) - 2-3 FALLS: Tommy Angel/Ricky Nelson d. South
Pacific Connection, taking 3rd fall by DQ; Len Wagner
d. David Isley; Ivan Koloff d. Brian Johnson; Sam
Houston d. Ring Lord Rick Slagle; SPOTS: Ken Shamrock

TV TEMPO (Continued)

introduced; D. I. (Bob Carter) introed as manager of M. O. D. Squad. POWERSLAM.

(PWF) - Steelman d. Mike McClaskey; Dick Slater/Steve Keirn d. Nick Busich/El Cid; Southern Force d. Mike Awesome/Lou Perez but Dusty Rhodes runs in and gets branding iron from Black Bart; Brett Sawyer/Nasty Boys d. Jim Backlund/Gladiator/Terminator. From AWA: Larry Zbyszko d. Rockin' Randy. DRAW.

(CWA/S-6) - Dutch Mantel/Robert Fuller d. Curtis Frazier/Freezer Thompson; Jeff Jarrett d. Ready; Lord Humongous d. Rough; Action Jackson d. Frankie Lancaster; Mason-Dixon Connection d. Tony Anthony/Brodie Chase. ARENA: Jerry Lawler beats all of Ronald V. Gossett IV's men to get show at Master of Pain for Memphis unified world title. Lawler d. M. O. P. to win back belt but is jumped by Gossett's guys and posted. His doctor says he can't wrestle for 30 days. ANGLE: Detroit Demolition drives nail in board with his head and chops up a bunch of blocks. Humongous comes out and slices 10 boards. Demo attacks and the 2 brawl into the WMC parking lot. Demo drives off in a car with Humongous trying to hold it back. POWERSLAM.

(NWA/TBS) - [WCW]: DESIGNATED HITTERS MATCH: Road Warrior Animal wins DQ over Steve Williams. Rules have loser of coin flip sit on bar stool. Other man has one punch to knock him out. Williams clotheslines Animal, rather than punches but Animal rallies before Kevin Sullivan & Mike Rotunda run in. Hawk & Paul Ellering make save. Squash winners: Great Muta, Dynamic Dudes (debut), Scott Steiner (debut), Rick Steiner. DRAW. [MAIN EVENT]: Butch Reed d. Trent Knight; Ron Simmons d. Rip Morgan; NWA TV TITLE: Sting d. Danny Spivey. DRAW.

(NWA/SYND.) - Both WORLD WIDE & NWA PRO feature Joe Pedicino w. Lance Russell & Bob Caudle on respective shows reviewing key feuds leading up to WW'89. POWERSLAM...both shows well produced.

(WEF/USA) - [PTW]: Primary match, Greg Valentine d. Ronnie Garvin in "retirement" match by holding trunks; Other highlights: Brutus Beefcake's hair cut by Sherri Martel & Randy Savage in attack on Bro. Love set; Curt Hennig d. Jose Luis Rivera; Jim Neidhart d. Tony Suber. RESTHOLD.

(WEF/SYND.) - [SUPERSTARS]: Rockers d. George South/Nick Zhukov; Honky Tonk Man d. Chuck Williams; Foghorn Leghorn d. Mike Sharpe. Sharpe argues with ref Ronnie Garvin after and Garvin decks him; Barbarian d. Tony Durante; Other winners: Hercules, Tully & Arn; BRO. LOVE: Heenan/Haku guest. ANGLE: Ted DiBiase tells Tony Schiavone he can't wrestle because he has the flu, so Jake Roberts d. Virgil, takes his dollar bills and hands them out to kids. As he prepares to deposit Damien on Virg, a miraculously healed DiBiase attacks, applies the cobra and shoves bills down Jake's throat. DRAW-PLUS.

[SPOTLIGHT]: Valentine-Garvin; Anabolic Warrior d.

Gary Royal; Rick Rude wins DQ over Hercules; Tully & Arn d. Brick Bronsky/Terry Daniels; Rick Martel wins squash. BRO. LOVE: Separate segs with Bushwhackers, Savage/Sherri attack on Beefcake. RESTHOLD.

(CMF) - U.S. JR. TITLE: Kevin Dillinger (Alan Martin) d. Danny Davis for title when, during a ref bump, Botswana Beast attacks Davis and triple splashes him; Wendell Cooley d. Lou Fabiano but is jumped by Dillinger and Don "Stomper" Harris, who spray Cooley's hair white; Japanese Connection d. Scott Smith/Jackie Fulton; Bill Dundee/Adrian Street d. Auditor I/J.T. Walton but JapConn run in; Harris d. David Elder; Ricky & Todd Morton d. Lou Spicollica/Auditor II but Tom Prichard handcuffs Morton to rope and pounds him with knucks to a major juice job. POWERSLAM.

(PORTLAND/2 Wks. Ago) - Buddy Rose d. Top Gun by countout; Jonathan Boyd d. Joey Jackson; Midnight Soldier wins DQ over Al Madril; Great Scotts win DQ over Beetlejuice/Rex King; NW TITLE: Carl Stiles d. Grappler to win back belt; Steve Doll wins forfeit over no-show C.W. Bergstrom but Scotty the Body enters, Doll splashes him and gives his own 3-count before Scott Peterson runs in. ANGLES: 1) ROSE GARDEN: Roddy Piper, Rose exchange insults over Rose's weight. Scales indicate Rose weighs 330 but he claims his boots weigh 25 pounds apiece; 2) Piper claims never to have heard of Scotty and throws toilet paper in his face, calling him SNOTTY THE BODY; 3) Nord the Barbarian/Grappler/Scotty push Piper, who brings out the fire extinguisher again and almost turns it on announcer Don Coss; 4) Drawing for NW Tag Tourney in which faces and heels wind up being paired together. POWERSLAM-PLUS.

(PORTLAND/Last Week) - NW TAG TEAM TOURNEY: 1) Nord/Col. DeBeers d. Soldier/King; 2) Grappler/Stiles d. Beetlejuice/Boyd; 3) Scotty/C.W. Bergstrom d. Rose/Top Gun; 4) Peterson/Doll d. Madril/Jackson. SEMIFINALS: DeBeers/Nord d. Grappler/Stiles by countout; Peterson/Doll d. Scotty/Bergstrom. After show ends, Peterson/Doll win belts, reunite and strip Scotty the Body to his underwear. POWERSLAM.

(AWA) - WOMEN'S TITLE: Wendi Richter d. Shirley Black to keep belt; Wahoo McDaniel d. Frank (Tank) Nelson; Larry Zbyszko d. Thor; VIDEO: Destruction Crew in workout session; MAT CLASSIC: Wahoo wins DQ over Nick Bockwinkel; FEATURE: Johnny Valiant still refuses to name his new team. BOMB-PLUS.

TUBE TALK

Because of the Nashville trip, LINES OF THE WEEK & friends will resume next week...the "Final Countdown" music video Joe Pedicino produced for Steamboat-Flair may have been the best ring video I've ever seen....Jim Cornette's first interview for CMF appeared Saturday. CMF will be taping the Birmingham show a week from Friday featuring Cornette & the Midnights...The Continental shows are so much crisper now but they need more closeups. In some angles, you get the view from the Bob Uecker seats...the Jake-Ted angle was telegraphed all the way but DiBiase played his part well.

I always experience a good chortle when I read about the unfavorable comments in MATWATCH and the other newsletter concerning the reign of terror inflicted by one Vincent McMahon Jr. He has been called the scourge of wrestling today among other comments which would broach the sense of good taste if printed...one can perceive Mr. McMahon as being arrogant and selfish, or as I seem to view him---as an extremely successful businessman.

A good argument can be generated with the premise that the professional wrestling business depicts the best or worst aspects of an economic society based on competition. All Mr. McMahon has done is his best to make certain that Titan Sports receives the bulk of the pro wrestling dollar. I don't seem to hear this type of criticism about IBM mainframe computers, Heinz ketchup, or Johnny Carson. Mr. McMahon has reintroduced professional wrestling back into the American mainstream. Why should he give a d--- about 3000 hardcore fans when millions, in dollars and in people, are his major concerns? Why do you fans persecute Vince McMahon for being so successful? In fact, Mr. McMahon's latest endeavors in his attempt to render the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission extinct would result in my loss of employment as a deputy commissioner. My wallet may become somewhat deflated but my respect and admiration for Vince McMahon will not be budged.

One of my fondest dreams is that Vincent McMahon Jr. would consider the prospect of entering the political arena. Yes, I'm serious. I imagine him as a President who would make this country number one again. Like him or not, he is a most remarkable man who gets things done, and gets his way.

JOHN LANIGAN
MCKEESPORT PA

(FSB: What I love about John's letters is there is no question where he stands. As for me, John, I have similarly admired McMahon's marketing and merchandising capacity to nationalize wrestling and make the megabucks from it. True, also, in a free enterprise society, those who can do and those who can't won't.

Having said that, I will also say THE NATIONAL ENQUIRER is one of the most financially successful products of its ilk in the world; yet, that does not mean it is a quality piece of work. G.I. JOE makes gads of money in the toy industry but that doesn't mean it is a safe or educational product for kids.

There likely will never be as fiscally profitable entrepreneur in wrestling as McMahon. Yet, some of the extremes to which he has taken the industry in his characterizations has led to such excessive hype that I feel it will eventually lead to increasing lethargy for all promotions, including the WEF.

I don't think McMahon spends five minutes worrying about x-numbers of hardcores. His accountants need those five minutes. As for the White House, I'm just afraid Vince might name George Steele Secretary of Education.)

Here's something I'd like to see in MATWATCH if and when time and space permit: a piece on your "ringwork" in the real world---that is, at the (Auburn) university. After reading MATWATCH (and getting to know you) for over a year, a lot of us are curious about the editor's responsibilities "out of the ring." Could be interesting.

JEFF SIEGEL
EVANSTON IL

(FSB: And could be deadly dull. But thanks for the interest. Perhaps in the anniversary issue we will do so. But I think you'll find we're pretty much a Pepsi and vanilla ice cream fellow.)

In issue 42, Page 5, I quote "were you on drugs when you rated those shows?" I feel this comment was out of line. The '60s are over and in this era of drug testing in the workplace, we as survivors should not encourage drug use in any form! You as a public figure should use due care in speaking of drug usage.

YOU SAID IT!

(Continued from Page 3)

Regarding Bryant Gumbel: I am NOT a fan of this pompous jerk who I had to endure during the last Olympics but (and I mean BUT) for him to mention the NWA, Turner, Steamboat and Flair over the #1 morning program is a positive sign (his network's in-bed arrangement with Vince makes ANY mention of MY favorite group a positive sign!)

KLON
PALM BAY FL

(FSB: I will heartily join you in decrying drug use of any kind. The quote was from a letter I received last month challenging my SUPER SUNDAY ratings.)

I'll be the first to admit I am nobody but I could have offered some badly needed free press (for the NWA) in St. Louis. The ex-champs booked by Sam Muchnick spent as much or more time here than anywhere else. I run into a lot of people who, even though they profess to dislike wrestling, want to know where the old timers are and what they are doing....St. Louis, in its day, was one of the strongest towns with good media relations and coverage. I had guarantees from local papers and at least four radio stations to give a plug or story about the old champs (appearing at CLASH VI).

I talked to two different people (in the NWA office) about this and was told someone would call back. NO ONE EVEN BOTHERED TO CALL BACK AND SAY NO. WHAT A CLASS ACT! I would have accepted a no even though I would not have understood it. Am I out of line for thinking the NWA would like this? I would have thought they might have been pleased someone would come all the way from St. Louis to see these guys and give them St. Louis publicity.

Is it "we don't need the press in St. Louis" when 1,300 and 3,000 showed for the last two cards? Is it we don't need to sell another ticket in New Orleans because we may have given them all away?

What I dislike most about being a fan is that on the telephone, people think a fan is a toothless coal miner from the poverty belt in West Virginia. I did not want to jeopardize my timekeepers' job by pursuing this any further but it would have been a good idea for the NWA and a huge thrill for me. I bring this up after reading your issue about keeping the CLASH a big secret.

HARRY WHITE
ST. LOUIS

Continue to enjoy MATWATCH every week. One thing troubles me, though: your personal relationship with (Jim) Herd and Jack (Petrik) make it difficult for me to accept your objectivity with regards to the NWA. I'm hoping you don't merely become a sounding board for Turner Broadcasting. Wasn't it you who defended George Scott until the bitter end...promising your readers "don't worry...it'll get worse before it gets better." We ALL want the NWA to succeed and prosper. We'd ALL like to see Turner give Vince a run for the money. But PLEASE...be objective. There's more wrong than merely Vince Young's breakdancing.

DAN REILLY
ENFIELD CT

(FSB: First, thanks for the constructive views. Second, let's define "personal" relationship. I have met Jim Herd & Jack Petrik one time each personally. I talk to Jim approximately one day a week for about ten minutes and Petrik about once a month. I do so because, as a lifelong journalist, I feel it responsible to ask for confirmation on reports I get. That is the extent of the relationship. Finally, I openly admitted being dead wrong about George Scott in the Super Sunday issue. As for objectivity, we have pointed to rock-bottom crowds in hot cities, TV problems, program scheduling and in this issue---a healthy skepticism about yet another rotation of TV announcers. In fact, I go so far as to say it may

YOU SAID IT!

be as long as one year---if ever---before the NWA is a healthy competitor to Titan...because too many woes, some of which are the attitudes toward wrestling in some TBS quarters, must be overcome. Remember, I went against the grain of a huge majority of this publication's readers and rated WRESTLEMANIA V a better "produced" show than CLASH VI.)

MATWATCH SHOPPERS NETWORK (May)

(Video Tapes)

RICKY SHORT, Rt. 2, Box 297, GRETNVA VA 24557, is wanting to buy or trade for Portland tapes. He's anxious for all shows after April 8. He'd also be interested in Windy City tapes.

GLENN FOX, 2612 E. Madison St., #201, SEATTLE WA 98112, still has VHS tapes of British wrestling for sale at \$30 each. Glenn's address is new.

(Bulletins)

PILEDRIIVER: Detailed look at World Class and the independent mat scene. Write for a sample and prices to JOHN WOODALL, 1707 ALABAMA, BIG SPRING TX 79720.

(Special Events)

PRO WRESTLING ENQUIRER ALL STAR card scheduled June 9 at Virginia Beach Dome in Virginia Beach, Va. PWE Editor Harvey Cobb and Ronnie Wyatt will promote the event. Tickets are \$10 and \$6 for children under 12. Write for info on Harvey's PWE bulletin at 2619 RUFFIN WAY, NORFOLK VA, 23504.

(MATWATCH Rate Increase)

Effective with the July 17 issue, MATWATCH rates will be \$6 for a 7-issue set, \$19 for 26 issues and \$36 for one year. You may extend your subscriptions at the current rates as long as envelopes are postmarked before July 15. We regret this but a sharp printing cost increase in our local area is making this necessary.

MATWATCH SUBSCRIPTIONS

MATWATCH is nearing its 500th subscriber. So, we want to reward the person who hits the magic number for us. We are offering a free 8-issue set to the person who is No. 500. If we reach the 500 mark from a gift subscriber, the person who gives the subscription will receive the free set. As of May 3, we had reached 465. The winner will be decided by random order of our mail openings.

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